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From the Christian Traveler. In Five Parts. Including
Nine Years, and Eighteen Thousand Miles.

By Isaac Reed, A. M. Printed by J. & J. Harper,
32 Cliff Street. Pages 187-191. New York, 1828.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE FRONTIER.

I have just returned from a short missionary tour across the Wabash. I was as far out as Paris, Edgar County, Illinois. Indeed, this was the point of my principal aim. I went by the particular and earnest solicitation of some people in that vicinity (who had removed there from Ohio, and from East Tennessee, but whom I had never seen) that I would come and bring them into church order. They had been about two years there with their families, and no minister had yet found his way to their settlement. The appointment had been a good while made, and I was therefore expected. Brother D. Whitney also went with me. We crossed the Wabash 3 miles above Fort Harrison the 4th inst. That night we had a meeting $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the river. There were present 3 female members of our church, all of them from the state of New York. One had been 7 years there, and the others 4 years; neither had been at communion since they came into the country, nor had they heard a sermon for almost two years—and this purely because they had no opportunity. The next day at evening we began our meeting in the neighborhood of Paris. Nothing unusual appeared. The people seemed pleased to receive us, and in the prospect of a church and the sacrament

On the 6th, we preached in town. It is a new and small place, though the seat of justice of Edgar County. The services were performed in a school house. Whilst preaching, a very uncommon solemnity and deep attention

seemed to prevail. Numbers were affected to tears. After sermon, the church was constituted out of the members present. They were 12; 3 elders were chosen. An examination then commenced of persons, who desired to become members; and on that, and the following day, 13 were admitted on examination, and another by letter, making 26. Four adults were baptized. And a very deep and tender impression seemed to exist in the minds of many of the hearers—many shed tears, and confessed, when required of, that their minds were awakened into concern for their souls. It seemed that a revival of the Lord's work was begun. They had for nearly two years kept up society meetings on the Sabbath, and seem to have desired and hoped and prayed for a preacher to come and see them, until they were prepared, when he came, to receive him as sent them of the Lord; and they seemed to wish to attend to his message and to follow the Lord's will. The 8th we constituted a Bible Society auxiliary to the American, and left them. But we did not so soon leave the traces of the Lord's work. Where we held a meeting that night, a woman convinced of sin, when repentance was subject of discourse, wept aloud. The next day we had preaching 7 miles further towards the Wabash; here also members seemed concerned, and at night, in another part of the settlement, 5 miles distant, it was yet more manifest. There were several children baptized; one household of 8; and two days after, 6 persons were admitted on examination to the communion of the church. In short, in 5 days we examined and admitted 19 persons to communion, constituted a church in a settlement beyond the point to which any of our ministers had before travelled, administered the sacrament twice, baptized 4 adults and 19 children. And the minds of several of the leading men of Terre Haute seemed to be stirred up to wish and to seek the settlement of a minister. Our second communion was held in that village on Thursday. Indeed, the fields of the Wabash, but more particularly on the west side of it, seemed white for the harvest. O, that labourers

may be sent forth to his harvest. It is a long and wide field, and none to reap, at least none whose constant business is this spiritual work. We have in an extent of 95 miles north of Vincennes, 7 organized Presbyterian churches, and not a pastor; no, not a stated supply to feed one of them; and yet, by the Saviour's blessing, all of these churches are increasing. And where a minister went one and two years ago, it is remembered and spoken of with interest, affection, gratitude and joy.

Several of these churches are near enough to unite, and two of them support a minister. This is the case with two in Park county—with the villages of Terre Haute and Roseville—with the State line settlement and Paris—with Thurman's Creek and Carlisle—with Washington and Portersville. The people are able to provide for 5 ministers in these 10 places, where there is *not one* and *many* of them are *very anxious* to do it. But the men must go to them. They know not where to apply for them, and they are too closely occupied with their farms and their domestic attentions to look about much. But I think, Sir, that Zion will yet gather strength and give Christ glory in that most delightful country; and to these neglected sheep many a pastor shall yet call, and in the wilderness fold a flock for the heavenly Shepherd.

Respectfully,

ISAAC REED.

Cottage of Peace, Ind., Nov. 24, 1824.

A Macedonian call had been sent me at Vincennes the first week of August, from Paris, Illinois: I had returned word I would come.

September 14th, 1825.—I left the Cottage of Peace on my way to preach the gospel to them. Rode 25 miles and preached at 5 o'clock P. M. Baptized five children. This was the house-hold of one of the members of the new formed congregation of Greencastle.

15th.—Started at sunrise, and went on to Greencastle, 5 miles, to breakfast; found my friend Mrs. O— very sick of a fever. Prayed with her. Hope she may recover.

Stopped only for breakfast, and went on. Passed through 17 miles of woods, with only a single cabin. Met and passed numbers on the road. Though very new, it is the leading way from Ohio, to the upper parts of Illinois, and near where the national road is expected to pass. Rode this day 31 miles, and stopped with Mr. Samuel Adams, found the women ill. Spent the evening in reading loud to the family a printed Missionary Report, and part of two sermons.

16th.—Started at sunrise, and rode to Mr. T—'s, 4 miles. He is an elder of our little church, on Big Racoon Creek. It was formed near three years ago by a Missionary of the General Assembly, but has no minister, nor meeting house, nor meeting, except when a missionary comes along. Went on through a very lonely and wet tract, 10 miles to the Wabash river. Crossed it 12 miles above Fort Harrison, a place famous in the late war. Rode 14 miles further to Mr. M'C—'s, where I had appointed to preach. This is on an arm of the Grand Prairie, in Illinois.

On my way, I met a man whom I had known six years ago, at New-Albany. He had been used to attend my ministry, but I had not known any thing of him since. Inquired of him respecting his mind—found it troubled and dark, without a Christian hope; but uneasy. Exhorted him, and requested him to come to the meeting at Paris. This Prairie has a grand and beautiful appearance. It is dry, grassy, and flowered. Preached—the attention was good. Had an interesting conference with the man of the house, his wife, and another woman. They are zealous Christians in their first love; each has united with the church in less than a year.

17th.—Rode into Paris, 8 miles. Met the congregation at the Court house. Preached immediately. Text, Acts xvi 10. A large number of hearers, and very good attention. Ordained a ruling elder, and gave a charge to him, and another to the congregation. Held a meeting with the session; examined and received two persons,

both young converts. Preached again at night to a numerous and solemn assembly.

Paris is the county seat of Edgar county, but is a very small place of about eight cabins. It lies on the Prairie. The church here was formed by my ministry, last November, with twelve members. It seemed in a state of revival and I left it with twenty-six. Sixteen have been added—now forty-two.

18th.—Sabbath. Held prayer meeting at the Court-house half after nine, A. M. Baptized one adult. Preached and administered the Lord's supper. There were three tables. A large number of hearers, and very well behaved. Rode four and one-half miles to lodge. Read aloud to the family a Missionary report.

19th.—Rode to Paris, and preached at 11 A. M. The sermon was a funeral one, for Mr. John Young, Missionary, who died at Vincennes, August 15th, aged 28 years. He had spent some months with these people, where his labours appear to have been greatly blessed. Dined, and took leave of these interesting people. They are anxious to obtain a minister, and I hope they can soon support one. Rode 10 miles, and preached at night.

20th.—Rode 9 miles to New Hope meetinghouse. Met the congregation and preached the same funeral sermon as yesterday. Here too, Mr. Y. had laboured—been successful, and was much beloved. It was a feeling time. Baptized one adult, and one infant. This is a wonderful society. It has grown up from nine to seventy members, in ten months, and there seems still a reviving influence. They subscribed \$10 towards printing the funeral sermon. They have built a new meeting house. Preached again at night, and baptized four children.

21st.—Found where there is a pious lad, now a scholar of the Sabbath school; anxious to learn, and make great proficiency. I expect he is to be called to the ministry. Rode 11 miles, to the village of Terre Haute. This is a singular place—has about 200 population and much mercantile business. It has no religious society of any

order. But at present a great disposition to hear preaching. And its gentlemen have formed a Sabbath reading meeting, at the Court house. They read printed sermons. There is also a new formed Bible Society, and there is a small Sabbath school. I am told, \$300 salary might be raised here for a preacher. Preached to a large congregation at night. In the afternoon, visited and prayed with a school.

22nd.—This day was rainy. Rode 21 miles — rested for the night without preaching; but not without being solicited to preach.

23rd.—Preached a funeral sermon for the death of a married woman—she had left children. Rode 13 miles and lodged at D—s, on Racoon creek—this is a Presbyterian family from Ireland.

24th.—Repassed the long woods to Greencastle, 18 miles —preached at night. My friend appears recovering from her fever, but is very weak.

25th.—Rose early, and retired to the woods. Visited and prayed with a sick woman. Met the congregation—prayed—ordained a ruling elder, and gave him and the congregation a charge. Preached and administered the Lord's supper in the new church at Greencastle. There were few to commune, but many to hear—went home with the elder. When we entered his house, his eldest son, who had been left at home, was weeping aloud. The Bible lay open on the table—and the first words he spoke were, "the Lord has found me." He seemed greatly agitated and distressed. I endeavored to direct him to the Saviour, and read and explained to him and the family, the parable of the Prodigal son.

26th.—The young man was still serious but more calm. Left him a reference to some chapters. Rode home, about 24 miles, and found my family in peace. I had been absent about thirteen days—rode 222 miles—preached thirteen sermons—administered the Lord's supper in two churches, ordained a ruling elder in each church—baptized two adults and six children.